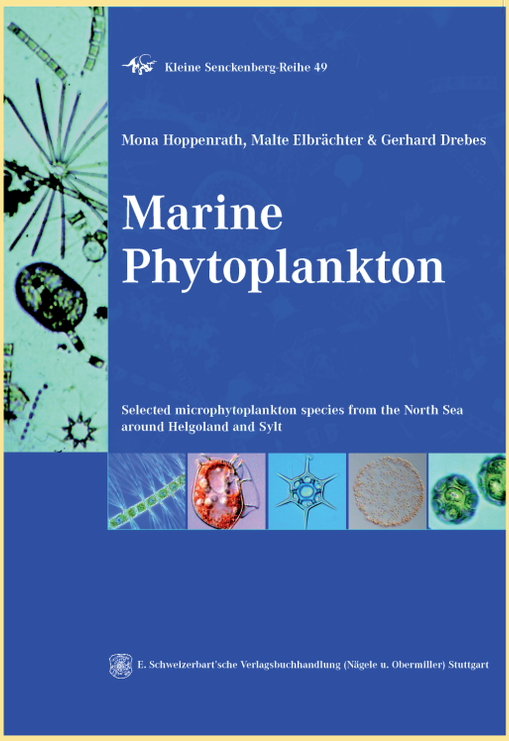

Hoppenrath/Elbrächter/Drebes

Marine Phytoplankton

Selected Phytoplankton species from the North Sea around Helgoland and Sylt

2009. 264 pages, 87 figures on 85 plates
(Kleine Senckenberg-Reihe, Band 49)
ISBN 978-3-510-61392-2, paperback, € 18.80

Marine phytoplankton forms the basis of the marine food web. Phytoplankton, while too small to be visible to the naked eye, occurs in the oceans in quantities so large, that under favorable conditions, these microscopic algae can actually be observed on satellite images.

According to NASA, phytoplankton accounts for the production of between 50% and 90% of all oxygen in the air that we breathe, depending on the seasons. In the process of producing oxygen, phytoplankton is one of the largest sinks of atmospheric CO_2, and a major factor in maintaining a balanced ecosystem which is essential for all life and a healthy planet.

More than 99% of all species inhabiting the oceans depend, either directly or indirectly, on phytoplankton for food.

This publication describes almost 300 phytoplankton species from the North Sea around Helgoland and Sylt in order to aid in their identification. The descriptions in this volume are profusely illustrated by means of approximately 1100 images and 70 line drawings on 85 plates.

The book aims to be a helpful contribution to identify and understand marine phytoplankton of the North Sea ecosystem.

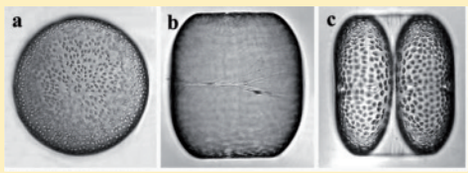

Fig. 11 a–c *Coscinodiscus* spp. a–g: *C. concinnus*. a: Valve view. b: Girdle view, mid cell focus. c: Dimorphic cell pair in girdle view.

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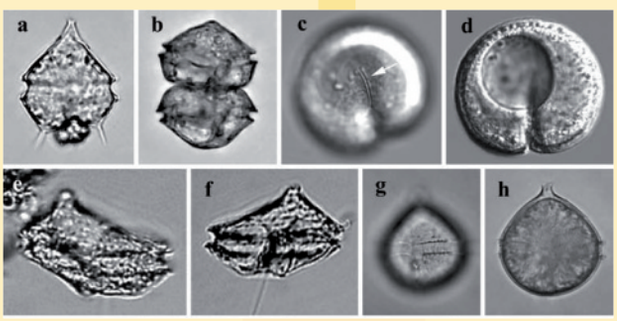
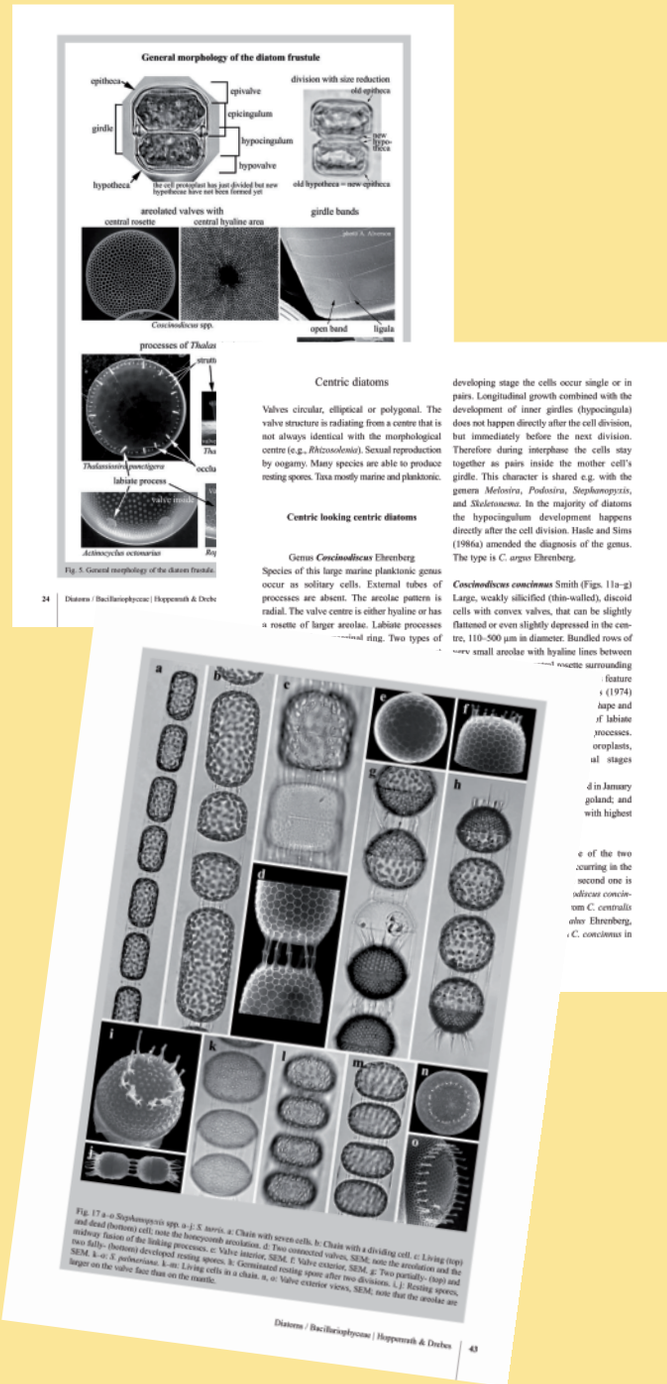


Fig. 59 a–h *Protoperidinium* spp. a: *P. bipes*. b–d: *P. denticulatum*. b: The species typically occurs in cell pairs. c: Apical view, note the slit-like apical pore plate (arrow). d: Mid cell focus, pusule visible. e, f: *P. excentricum*, lateral views. g–i: *P. minutum*. g: Ventral view. h: Mid cell focus.



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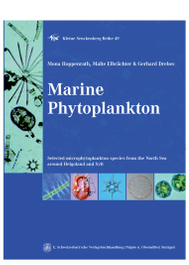

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